STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBERT 14, 2021
Prepared on September 9, 2021

ITEM NUMBER: **10**

SUBJECT: **Executive Officer's Report to the Board**

STAFF CONTACTS: **Matt Keeling 805/549-3140**
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ACTION: **Information/Discussion**

KEY INFORMATION: **This item presents a brief discussion of issues that may interest the Board and the program performance measures. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.**

Grants Program Update

[Katie McNeill, 805/549-3336, Katie.Mcneill@waterboards.ca.gov]

This item provides an overview of grant-funded projects awarded in the Central Coast Region associated with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program and the State's Proposition 1 Stormwater Grant Program.

Background

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) staff coordinate with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to assist with grant proposal development and selection, to ensure that a grant project's scope aligns with permits and Water Board program goals. Staff solicits projects in high priority watersheds to align with the Central Coast Water Board's priorities to protect and restore water quality, mitigate and/or adapt to the effects of climate change (e.g., wetland carbon sequestration and post fire rehabilitation), and to implement the human right to water law by prioritizing funding for projects in disadvantaged communities (DACs). Grantees and partnering organizations, landowners, and agencies provide matching funds.

Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program

In May 2021, the CWA section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program Review Committee approved 2021 funding cycle grants, selected as part of a competitive state-wide process. The Review Committee is composed of staff from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), State Water Board, and one representative from each of the nine regional Water Boards. CWA section 319(h) Nonpoint Source

Grant Program funds support planning and implementation projects to restore water quality in impaired waterbodies, for post-fire recovery, and for the protection of high-quality waters. Central Coast Water Board staff will manage two implementation grants that were awarded in 2021.

Approximately 4.5 million dollars is available state-wide annually for the CWA section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program. For more information, visit the State Water Board website: Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Control Program | California State Water Resources Control Board[1]

Reductions for Improved Water Quality in Chorro and Los Osos Creeks

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District was awarded $536,034 to implement a suite of rangeland and irrigation and nutrient management practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollutant loading to the Morro Bay estuary. The grantee will evaluate water quality data to characterize water quality trends related to management practice implementation. This project implements numerous Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects, including the *Los Osos Creek, Warden Creek, Warden Lake Wetland TMDLs for Nutrients* and the *Morro Bay Sediment TMDL (including Chorro Creek, Los Osos Creek, and the Morro Bay Estuary)*.

The grantee is working with private landowners, non-profits, and public agencies, including the Resources Legacy Foundation, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Camp San Luis Obispo, and California Polytechnic State University. The public agencies are providing $174,000 in matching funds, with approximately 70% in in-kind services and 30% in cash donation, primarily towards best management practice (BMP) design and implementation.

Scott Creek Post-Fire Sediment Prevention and Forest Management Project

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), in partnership with San Vicente Redwoods Property, the Sempervirens Fund, Save the Redwoods League, and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, was awarded $625,525 to replace road crossings on Little Creek, a tributary to Scott Creek. Specifically, to replace four destroyed and undersized stream crossings on the steep and eroding banks of the north fork of Little Creek, following the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit (CZU) Lighting Complex Fire. Staff identified and solicited projects in Scott Creek watershed to support post-fire recovery efforts and to protect this high-quality waterbody that maintains the largest remaining Coho salmon population in the Central Coast Region. This project will prevent an estimated 1,120 tons of sediment from entering Scott Creek. Even though matching funds are not required for post-fire recovery projects, POST is providing $303,500 in in-kind services, with approximately 85% of the match consisting of rock construction materials and 15% for engineering consulting services needed to complete the project.

[1] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/

Proposition 1 Stormwater Grant Program

Three central coast stormwater management projects were awarded by the State Water Board in February 2021. The Proposition 1 Stormwater Grant Program awards funds to multi-benefit projects such as green infrastructure, rainwater and stormwater capture projects, and stormwater treatment facilities. State Water Board staff will manage these grants.

For financial assistance provided by the State Water Resources Control Board, go to: Financial Assistance Funding - Grants and Loans | California State Water Resources Control Board[2]

Salinas Project to Enhance Regional Stormwater Supply (SPERSS)

The City of Salinas was awarded $8,799,154 to improve stormwater capture, storage, and conveyance while providing water quality benefits and enhancing the effectiveness of the Pure Water Monterey groundwater replenishment project. The City of Salinas proposes to contribute $8,877,556 in matching funds in the form of in-kind services associated with construction and implementation. The City will be leveraging existing facilities and enhancing benefits achieved by the Salinas Storm Water Project (Phases 1A and 1B). The SPERSS project is Phase 2 of that effort and includes improvements to Treatment Plant No. 1 such as a trash capture device and diversion facilities to increase capacity and improve water quality of stormwater transported to the Salinas River and the industrial wastewater treatment facility (IWTF). The SPERSS also includes improvements at the IWTF such as influent pump station upgrades, monitoring and automation, and stand-by power. These improvements provide greater climate resiliency, flow control, and source water utilization.

West End Stormwater Improvement Project on Contra Costa Street in the community of Seaside

Sand City was awarded $2,735,202 to implement bioretention, trash capture, permeable pavers, subsurface infiltration chambers, and other best management practices (BMPs) to improve urban stormwater runoff and augment groundwater quality in a disadvantaged community. The City will contribute $304,000 in matching funds, including approximately 30% from in-kind staff labor and 70% cash contributions. The BMPs will reduce the amount of metals, bacteria, nutrients, and trash being discharged into Monterey Bay and increase the reliability of the Seaside Area Groundwater Basin. Project implementation will also create urban green space and help the community adapt to climate change.

[2] https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/

Stormwater Capture and Groundwater Recharge Project

The Oceano Community Services District was awarded $2,450,733, and will contribute $129,357 in matching funds, with approximately 23% from in-kind services for project administration and 77% cash contributions for construction. The project aims to manage urban stormwater runoff to improve stormwater quality and provide flood control, water supply, and urban greening benefits in a severely disadvantaged community. A variety of BMPs will capture, treat, and infiltrate runoff to reduce pollutant loading into Arroyo Grande Creek and increase groundwater recharge. The project will help the community adapt to climate change by increasing the reliability of the local groundwater basin and by planting trees and enhancing urban green space. The BMPs installed along four blocks of 19th and Paso Robles Streets include bioretention, pervious pavement, and self-retaining landscape. The BMPs installed beneath a playing field at the Oceano Elementary School include a subsurface infiltration gallery. The project, which is directly adjacent to community social services building, a school, and the Boy's and Girl's Club, supports environmental equity and economic vitality objectives. The project will enhance local capacity to manage stormwater while improving regional water self-reliance and strengthening collaborative efforts of local agencies to provide sustainable water resources.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Please see the following standard attachments.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Table 1 - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. Table 2 - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. Table 3 - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. Table 4 - Groundwater Case Closures
5. Table 5 - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers

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